

The Battle of Trafalgar

October 21, 1805 – Britain's Royal Navy commanded by Admiral Lord Nelson defeated the combined might of the allied French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar – one of the most famous naval battles in history



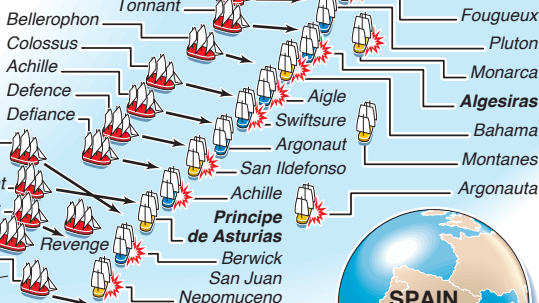
Horatio Nelson
Fatally wounded in the battle

THE BATTLE	Allied	British
Ships	33	27
Men	30,000	17,000
Guns	2,568	2,148
Casualties*	6,953	1,690
Ships lost	18	0

- British ships
- French ships
- Spanish ships
- Captured or sunk
- Bold names = flagships**

Masts:

Main mast
Mizzen mast
Fore mast



Cape Trafalgar

HMS VICTORY:

Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar

Overall length: 69.3 metres

Displacement: 3,556 tonnes

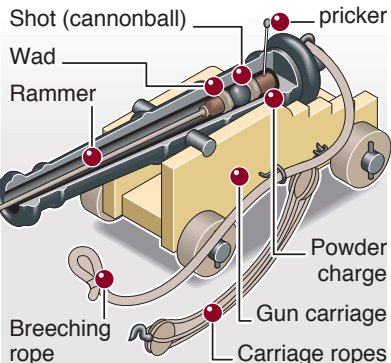
Maximum speed: 11 knots

Armament: 104 guns

Crew: Over 800

MAIN ARMAMENT:

32-pounder cannon



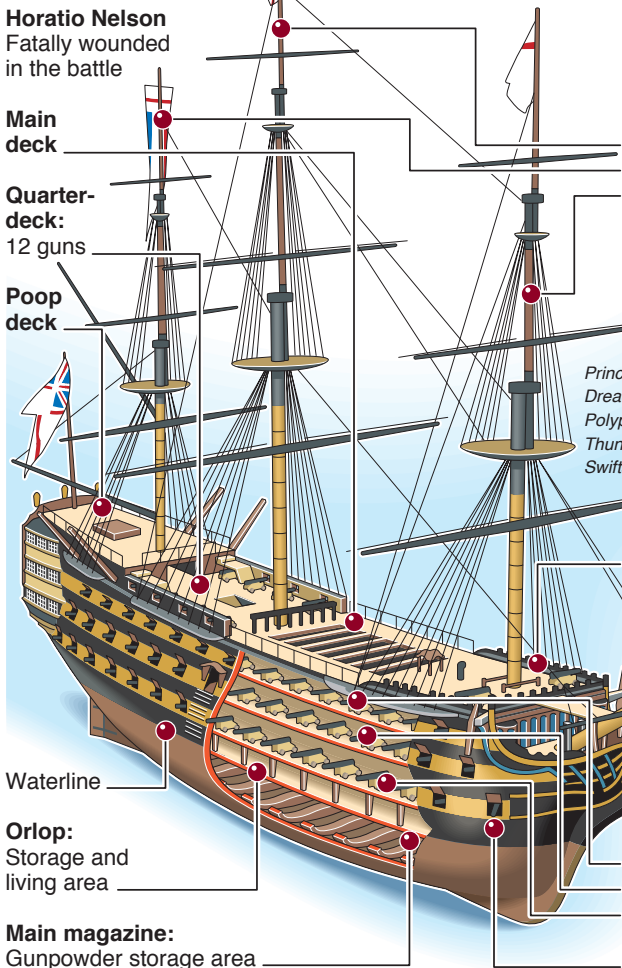
Length of gun: 2.9 metres

Weight (gun + carriage): 3,276kg

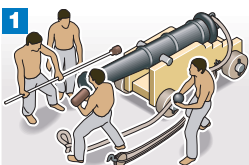
Shot weight: 14.4kg

Point blank range: 364 metres

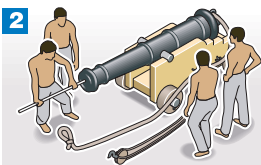
Rate of fire: 1 round every 2 minutes



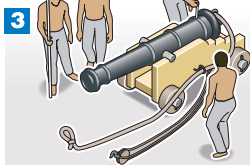
LOADING AND FIRING A CANNON:



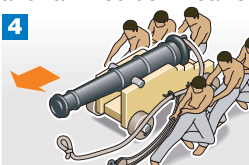
1 Powder charge placed and rammed down barrel



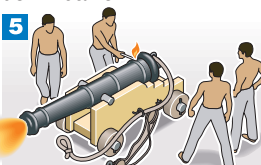
2 Shot placed and rammed down barrel



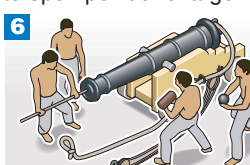
3 Pricker inserted into vent to open powder charge



4 Crew hauls gun forward into firing position



5 Burning taper held to vent, igniting charge. Gun fires



6 Barrel sponged to remove traces of burning powder